

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

1. (original): A print schedule planning method of planning a schedule for printing processes consisting of a series of processes including a machine plate making process for making a machine plate of a printing machine, said print schedule planning method comprising steps of:

obtaining information concerned with the series of processes; and

creating a schedule plan for first half processes in such a manner that a scheduling is performed in accordance with a fastest-schedule scheme for first half processes terminating up to the machine plate making process of the series of processes obtained in the obtaining step, and creating a schedule plan for latter half processes in such a manner that a scheduling is performed in accordance with a latest-schedule scheme for latter half processes starting after a starting point of the machine plate making process of the series of processes obtained in the obtaining step.

2. (original): A print schedule planning method according to claim 1, wherein after creating the schedule plan of the first half processes and the schedule plan of the latter half processes, it is detected whether there is any overlapping of schedules between the schedule plan of the first half processes and the schedule plan of the latter half processes.

3. (original): A print schedule planning system for planning a schedule for printing processes consisting of a series of processes including a machine plate making process for making a machine plate of a printing machine, said print schedule planning system comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining information concerned with the series of processes; and

schedule plan creating means for creating a schedule plan for first half processes in such a manner that a scheduling is performed in accordance with a fastest-schedule scheme for first half processes terminating up to the machine plate making process of the series of processes obtained by said obtaining means, and for creating a schedule plan for latter half processes in such a manner that a scheduling is performed in accordance with a latest-schedule scheme for latter half processes starting after a starting point of the machine plate making process of the series of processes obtained by said obtaining means.

4. (original): A print schedule planning system according to claim 3, wherein said schedule plan creating means has overlapping detection means for detecting as to whether there is any overlapping of schedules between the schedule plan of the first half processes and the schedule plan of the latter half processes.

5. (original): A print schedule planning program storage medium storing a print schedule planning program for forming on a computer system a print schedule planning system for planning a schedule for printing processes consisting of a series of processes including a machine plate making process for making a machine plate of a printing machine, said print schedule planning program comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining information concerned with the series of processes; and  
schedule plan creating means for creating a schedule plan for first half processes in such a manner that a scheduling is performed in accordance with a fastest-schedule scheme for first half processes terminating up to the machine plate making process of the series of processes obtained by said obtaining means, and for creating a schedule plan for latter half processes in such a manner that a scheduling is performed in accordance with a latest-schedule scheme for latter half processes starting after a starting point of the machine plate making process of the series of processes obtained by said obtaining means.

6. (new): A print schedule planning method according to claim 1, wherein said fastest-schedule scheme comprises forming a schedule in order of higher priority of a process in practice while making sure of a resource.

7. (new): A print schedule planning method according to claim 1, wherein said latest-schedule scheme comprises forming a schedule from a later process to a former process counting backward from a date of delivery while making sure of a resource.